[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With respact to (*i*), was it not the practice before to put up the taluks under the farming system to auction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. In the case of big contracts it was not the practice invariably to put them up to public auction.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it not done in public auction in the Huzur Cutcherry by the Dewan himself?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Not in all cases.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know whether there was any Government notification regarding the sale of the three taluks held by Mr. Nadar for 1098 and 1099.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Tappers' Strike.

240. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the occasions on which the tappers struck work in the Arukutty and other circles?

(*b*) Have the District Superintendents of Police, Messrs. Padmanabhan Tampi and Gomatinayakam Pillai, reported to the Commissioner of Police the causes of the same, and has the Commissioner submitted a report to the Government in the matter?

(*c*) If the Commissioner of Police has submitted a report to the Government on the subject, will they be pleased to lay it on the table?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In 1096 there was a strike of tappers in the Vaikam taluk.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative. *Vide* also the answer to question No. 190 in the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, Vol. II.

Certain Works in the Pazhayar River.

241. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the late Chief Engineer Mr. Bastow and the late Excise Commissioner Mr. N. Raman Pillai had, as a result of their joint inspection, sent up a report to the Government stating that that portion of the Pazhayar river which runs through the salt pans is very narrow and that the river should be widened and brought to the total breadth of 1,000 feet?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state their reasons for not sanctioning the works in accordance with this report based on expert opinion?

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